

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 17758 271449Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 17758

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG UNGA EG IS
SUBJ: GENERAL ASSEMBLY: EGYPTIAN ITEM ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: (A) SECRETARY/AMBASSADOR TELECON 10/27;
(B) CAIRO 17732; (C) USUN 4103

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR CALL (REF A), I AGAIN GOT IN TOUCH WITH FAHMY. TOLD HIM OF YOUR CALL AND EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT WE ARE SERIOUSLY TRYING TO HELP. HOWEVER, WE NEED THE PROPOSED CHANGES IF WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO CAST A POSITIVE VOTE. IF PRESENT DRAFT UNCHANGED, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE FOR IT. I URGED HIM TO AGREE TO CHANGES.

2. FAHMY'S MOOD WAS ONE OF DISTEMPER. HE INSISTED WE ARE NOT SERIOUS. I TOLD HIM WE ARE INDEED SERIOUS AND WE WENT ROUND AND ROUND ON THIS FOR A FEW MINUTES.

3. FAHMY THEN INSISTED HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THE MATTER, SINCE WE ARE EVEN ASKING FOR A
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CHANGE IN THE TITLE OF THE ITEM. WITH CONSIDERABLE EMOTION, HE ASKED HOW HE COULD BE EXPECTED TO CHANGE THE TITLE AFTER IT HAS RECEIVED MORE THAN SIXTY CO-SPONSORS, HAS BEEN APPROVED BY ALL APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES AND IS NOW IN FINAL FORM. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHERE OUR DELEGATES WERE DURING THESE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS. HE HAD "SAT NEXT TO THEM" AND THEY HAD

SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE RESOLUTION DURING COMMITTEE HEARINGS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, FAHMY INSISTED, TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF THE ITEM AT THIS LATE DATE. HE AGAIN CHARGED THAT THIS REQUEST INDICATES WE ARE LOOKING FOR REASON NOT TO VOTE FOR RESOLUTION. BECAUSE OF THIS, HE HAD NOT EVEN BOTHERED TO LOOK AT THE OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES. ONCE MORE I ASSURED HIM THAT WE ARE SERIOUS AND WANT TO HELP EGYPT, BUT REGARD THE PROPOSED CHANGES AS CRITICAL. I PRESSED HIM TO CONSIDER THEM. I COULD ASSURE HIM ON YOUR BEHALF THAT IF ACCEPTS THEM, WE WILL VOTE FOR RESOLUTION. HIS REACTION WAS THAT HE COULD NOT MEET OUR WISHES. WE WERE SEEKING TO CHANGE THE MAIN THRUST OF THE RESOLUTION TO MEET DOMESTIC PRESSURES. I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE RESOLUTION, BUT ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP HIM. WE DO NOT BELIEVE OUR PROPOSED CHANGES ALTER BASIC THRUST OF RESOLUTION. HE SHOULD NOT DISMISS OUR PROPOSAL OUT OF HAND.

4. FEW MINUTES LATER FAHMY CALLED BACK. AS RESULT OF OUR TALK, HE HAD LOOKED AT PROPOSED CHANGES MORE CAREFULLY. HE STILL INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT TITLE CANNOT BE CHANGED. NOR WOULD HE ACCEPT DELETION OF "PALESTINIAN AND OTHER" IN OPERATIVE PARA 1. HE WOULD AGREE TO SUBSTITUTING "TENDING" FOR "DESIGNED" IN PREAMBLULAR PARA 2 AND TO SUBSTITUTING "OBSTACLE TO" FOR "SERIOUS OBSTRUCTION OF EFFORTS AIMED AT ACHIEVING A JUST AND LASTING" CONFIDENTIAL

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IN OPERATIVE PARA 1. FAHMY ADAMANTLY INSISTED THIS IS AS FAR AS HE CAN GO.

5. HE CONTENDED THAT IF HE ACCEPTED ALL OUR CHANGES, EVEN ISRAEL MIGHT VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION, WHICH WOULD CAUSE HIM GREAT EMBARRASSMENT. I TOLD HIM FRANKLY THAT THIS WAS A FAR FETCHED ARGUMENT. IN ANY CASE, HE ARGUED (THIS TIME MORE CALMLY), HE COULD NOT NOW GO BACK TO SIXTY CO-SPONSORS AND ASK THEM TO MAKE THE TITULAR CHANGE WE ARE NOW PROPOSING. HIS AND GOE'S CREDIBILITY WOULD BE IRREPARABLY DAMAGED. HE HOPED USG WOULD VOTE FOR RESOLUTION, SINCE HE AGAIN ARGUED IT IS BASED PRIMARILY ON PREVIOUS USG POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS. HE REPEATED HIS EARLIER ARGUMENT THAT FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BADLY DAMAGE OUR CREDIBILITY IN THE ARAB WORLD.

6. HE SAID HE IS INSTRUCTING ABDEL MEQUID ALONG THE ABOVE LINES.
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